



REFUTATION OF AN ACCUSATION ON PROPHET MUHAMMAD (ﷺ) THAT HE MARRIED A CHILD, AISHA (رضى الله عنها) COMPILED BY BINT A.SHAKOOR



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Introduction

Verily, all praise is to Allah. We praise Him, seek His help and seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from evils. Whomever Allah guides, there is none to misguide. And whomever He leaves astray, there is none to guide. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah alone, with no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) is His servant and Messenger.

Allah sent Messengers to mankind so that people should not have any argument against Him. He also revealed Books as guidance, mercy, light and healing. Allah chose Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) as the Last of all the Prophets and Messengers. Allah says in Qur'an, "Muhammad is not the father of (any) one of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah and the last of the prophets..."ⁱ

Allah honored him with the best revealed book, which is the Qur'an. The Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) not only conveyed the message to others, but also himself lived according to Allah's command. Some people, from the beginning of his Prophethood until now accused him falsely through misinterpreting Qur'an and ahaadith. Furthermore, social media is spreading wrong information about Islam. My objectives are to expose the truth and eliminate the misconceptions about Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). There are many false claims against Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) made by some people. But in this book, I tried to refute, with authentic evidences, the most common allegation against him, i.e., he (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) married a child, Aisha (Radiyah-anhaa).

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Meaning of the Arabic terms used

- Sallal-laahu-alayhi -wa-sallam- Blessings and peace be upon him [used after the name of Prophet Muhammad]
- Radiyallaah-anhaa- May Allah be pleased with her [used after the name of a female companion of Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)]
- Radiyallaah-anhu- May Allah be pleased with him [used after the name of a male companion of Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)]
- Radiyallah-anhum- May Allah be pleased with them [used after the names of more than one companion of Prophet Muhammad (sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)]
- Alayh-salaam- Peace be upon him [used after the names of prophets other than Prophet Muhammad (sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) and angels, etc.]
- Sunnah/Hadeeth- Statement and action of Prophet Muhammad (sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)
- Surah- Chapter [plural- surahs (Chapters)]
- Aayah- Verse [plural- Aayaat (Verses)]
- Ahaadith- Plural of word Hadeeth
- Jahiliyyah- The pre-Islamic period



Refutation of an accusation on Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that he married a child, Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa)

Divine Inspiration

Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) did not marry Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) out of his own wish and desire, instead it was a Divine Inspiration. In Sahih al-Bukhaari, narrated by Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa), “Allah’s Messenger (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) said (to me), ‘you were shown to me twice in (my) dream. Behold, a man was carrying you in a piece of silk cloth and said to me, ‘She is your wife, so uncover her (face), and behold, it was you. I would then say (to myself), ‘If this is from Allah, then it must occur.’ ”ⁱⁱ

Engagement of Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) with Jubair bin Muti’m

Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa), before getting married to Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), was given in engagement to a non-Muslim, Jubair bin Muti’m. But this engagement was nullified later as Abu Bakr (Radiyah-laah-anhu) embraced Islam, i.e., on the basis of religious differences. Thus, her father, Abu Bakr agreed to give her hand in marriage to the Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). It shows that there was nothing immoral in marrying a nine-year-old girl at that time. She was even much younger when she was first engaged to a non-Muslim, Jubair bin Muti’m.ⁱⁱⁱ

Age of marriage in ancient times and age of puberty

“Child marriages, whether in Byzantines or foreign princesses, were common rather than exception, especially from the late twelfth century.”^{iv}

During the Biblical and the Islamic periods, girls were given in marriage as soon as they attained menarche (i.e., their first menstruation), which means they have turned into adolescents and are ready for marriage. On the other hand, in case of

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boys, it was completely different because mere attaining puberty was not sufficient. For them, the criteria to get married was that they need to be physically fit and financially independent as they had to bear the family expenses after marriage. Hence adolescent boys used to wait until they become men before getting into marriage. This is the reason, the girls as young as nine or ten years old were married to men as old as thirty or even above thirty. The culture in the past was quite different than that of what we live in today. And no divine law was broken by marrying a nine-year-old girl.^v

As per the social customs of the time and place, irrespective of religion, Arabs considered girls as women as soon as they attained menarche. Their custom was to give their daughters in marriage at that age. This was practiced by all the dwellers of Arabia before Islam even by the disbelievers, Jews, pagans and others. It is a fact that females living in hot climates attain menarche much earlier than those in cold climates. Hence, the females in Arabia attain adolescence as early as eight or nine years, and they even turn older much earlier than the other women.^{vi}

In Sahih al-Bukhaari, narrated 'Urwa (Radiyah-laah-anhu), "The Prophet (Sallallahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) wrote the (marriage contract) with Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) while she was six years old and consummated his marriage with her while she was nine years old and she remained with him for nine years (i.e., till his death)."^{vii} According to this Hadeeth, Aisha's (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) covenant of marriage was conducted when she was 6, but actual marriage took place when she was 9. Marrying at such a young age was natural and common in Arabia in those times. Most of them were married at a young age period between 9 to 12 when they were physically mature. Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) grew up in a hot country (the Arabian Peninsula), and hence she attained menarche at an early age which means she was mature enough to get married. Such marriages were common in jahiliyyah and they even continued after it. None condemned it. It is

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quite evident from this that Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) was neither " the First nor the Only person" who did it.

As Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) was born in the same society, wherein early marriages of female adolescents were normal; he married in the same manner as others. Moreover, his staunchest enemies, who tried to kill him, did not use such marriage as a cause to tarnish his image or instigate against him because it was a common in those times, and they were too following the same norm.^{viii} It was totally acceptable thing which can also be easily understood from the response of the pagans at that time. No Muslim or even non-Muslim opposed this type of marriage because it was commonly practiced. And even until now, in Third World War Countries (Muslims and non-Muslims), girls as young as 9 or 10 are getting married.

Due to many following reasons, NO ONE in the past opposed the marriage of Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam):

- ❖ People had a very short lifespan in Arabia, maximum between 40 to 60 years. Hence, it was normal for the girls to be get married off at the ages of 9, 10, or so.
- ❖ Early marriage of young girls was widely practiced among the Arabs back then and even now in many Muslim and Non-Muslim countries.

One should first know that the era 1400 years ago was very different than that of today. Times have changed and so has human being. It was very usual to wed young girls 1400 years ago. In fact, they were not considered as young girls; rather they were considered as adult women.

Age of marriage in recent times

It was reported in the News Straits Times on 10th March 2001, that a 9-year-old Thai girl gave birth to a baby and became a mother at a very tender age.

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It is a historical fact that girls of age 9 to 14 were being married in Europe, Africa and Asia. Even in the USA, girls at the age of 10 were also being married just more than a century before. In Indo-Pak Sub-Continent, girls used to get married at 12 to 13 years of age, half a century ago. Those girls, in fact, nurtured much better families and had very fewer family problems. Maturity level in the past used to be different and they used to approach old age relatively quick.

Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) was fit for marriage

The consummation of the marriage of Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) was done when she was 9 years old, and NOT when she was 6 years old because Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) had attained menarche by the age of 9. A lady who attains menarche is considered as a woman and fit for marriage.^{ix} Following are the authentic ahaadith, which are evidences that Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) was fit for marriage.

1. Imam Ahmad narrated (in al-Musnad, 6/112) from Muhammad Ibn Bishr, who said, "Muhammad Ibn Amr told us: Abu Salma and Yahyaa told us: When Khadija (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) died, Khawlaa bint Hakeem, the wife of Uthman Ibn Mazoon came and said, 'O Messenger of Allah, why do not you get married?' He said: To whom? She said, 'If you wish a virgin and if you wish a previously married woman'. He said: Who is the virgin? She said, 'The daughter of the dearest of Allah's creation to you, Aisha bint Abi Bakr...' And he stated the story in detail, including the fact that she was 6 years old when the marriage contract was done and was 9 years old when the marriage was consummated."^x
2. Ibn Hajar (in Fath-ul-Baari) and al-Tabaraani, it is mentioned, "Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) said: '...until we arrived at Madeenah, so I dwelt among the family of Abu Bakr (Radiyah-laah-anhu) ...So Abu Bakr told him (Prophet Muhammad [Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam]), 'What prevents you from consummating with your wife?' So, he consummated with me'."^{xi}

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3. In Sahih Muslim, Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) narrated: Allah's Messenger (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) married me when I was 6 years old, and I was admitted to his house at the age of 9. She further said, "We went to Medina and I had an attack of fever for a month and my hair had come down to the earlobes. Umm Rumaan (my mother) came to me and I was at that time on a swing along with my friends. She called me loudly and I went to her and I did not know what she wanted from me. She took hold of my hand and took me to the door, and I was saying: Ha, ha (as if I was panting), until the anxiety of my heart was over. She took me to a home, where the women of the Ansaar were assembled. They all blessed me and wished me good luck and said: May you have share in good. She (my mother) entrusted me to them. They washed my head and adorned me and nothing frightened me. Allah's Messenger (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) came there in the morning, and I was entrusted to him.^{xii}
4. Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) reported: "The Messenger of Allah (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) ordered me that I should get him the mat from the masjid. I said, 'I am menstruating.' He (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) said: Do get me that, for menstruation is not in your hand."^{xiii}

According to all above-mentioned ahaadith, the following points should be noted:

- ❖ Khawlaa bint Hakeem suggested for the Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to marry Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) because Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) was mature. That is why Khawlaa bint Hakeem mentioned about her virginity; and another reason for her suggestion was Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) and Abu Bakr (Radiyah-laah-anhu) were best friends.
- ❖ The parents of Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) were in full agreement of the marriage to take place; and most importantly, they were in total agreement for the consummation of their daughter's marriage to take place at that time. Obviously, no parent would send his daughter for consummation in a pre-adolescent stage of her life. In fact, Aisha's (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) father, Abu Bakr (Radiyah-laah-

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anhu) was the one who suggested consummation of the marriage to Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam).

- ❖ According to hadith, Aisha (Radiyallaah-anhaa) reached her adolescence as she stated about her menstruation, which means she was fit for marriage.

Legal Marriage

Prophet Muhammad's (Sallal-laahu-alayh-wa-sallam) marriage with Aisha (Radiyallaah-anhaa) was hundred percent legal as well as acceptable by Divine Religion and all laws. They married by proper Islamic tradition. Why people are not pointing out to those who are keeping intimate relations without marriage? They are considering such prohibited relations as legal in their country. But if anybody marries a young girl legally, they make fuss of it. In Western Countries, if a school going girl has a boyfriend and even having illegal relation with him, then it's fine for them because of their consent. Disgusting!!

No Physical Desire

The Prophet (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) did not marry Aisha (Radiyallaah-anhaa) out of lust. In fact, he was the one who in his prime youth, at 25 years of age, married a twicely-widowed woman Khadijah (Radiyallaah-anhaa), who was 15 years older than him. His only wife till fiftieth year of his life was Khadijah (Radiyallaah-anhaa). He spent his whole youth with her. After her demise, he married a widow Sa'uda bint Zam'ah (Radiyallaah-anhaa) who was an older woman and not very beautiful, was his only wife for next four years.^{xiv} Prophet (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) married her to support her as she was a widow. Aisha (Radiyallaah-anhaa) was the only virgin whom Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayh-wa-sallam) married.^{xv}

Aisha (Radiyallaah-anhaa) never showed her displeasure

It should be noticed that among hundreds of her narrations, there is not even a single one, which showed her displeasure or discontent about her marriage. Thus, she had no problem with this marriage. In fact, it is apparent from some instances that she loved Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) so much so that she felt jealous when she found other co-wives around him. She was extremely satisfied and happy about her marriage.

Wisdom behind marriage with young Aisha (Radiyallaah-anhaa)

This marriage was, in fact, a great blessing for all the Muslims because most of the marital issues related to cleanliness, and other household matters were made clear in her narrations.^{xvi} Aisha (Radiyallaah-anhaa) came from an intellectual family who was famous for their remembering capacity. Her father was a live encyclopedia of Arab tribal lineage and poetry. She inherited his talent. Due to her young, receptive, smart and intelligent mind, she preserved a valuable portion of Islam, which she studied during her 7 years of marriage, for 47 years after the death of the Prophet (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). She continued to educate the Ummah worldwide as she got educated directly from the Prophet (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). Till date, she is considered to be amongst the most prominent Islamic scholars. She holds very high honor in the hearts of all Muslims.^{xvii} She was well known for religious knowledge. Arwa bin Zubair says, “I did not find anybody more expert (than Aisha [Radiyallaah-anhaa]) in the knowledge of the Qur'an, the Commandments of lawful (halal) and prohibition (haraam), Ilmul-Ansaab and Arabic poetry. That is the reason why even senior companions of the Prophet (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) used to consult Aisha in solving complicated matters.”^{xviii} Abu Musa al-Ashari says, “Never had we (the companions) any difficulty for the resolution of which we approached Aisha

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(Radiyah-laah-anhaa) and did not get some beneficial information from her.”^{xix xx}

One of the reasons for the marriage with Aisha (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) was the love of the Prophet (Sallal-laahu-alayh-wa-sallam) for her father, Abu Bakr (Radiyah-laah-anhu) and the oppression that Abu Bakr (Radiyah-laah-anhu) had suffered for the sake of the Call of Truth, which he tolerated with patience. He was the strongest of people in faith and the sincerest in specific faith after the Prophet (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam).^{xxi}

While other reason of this marriage is to refute pagans' views. There were many baseless customs practiced among the Arabs in those times. Hence Prophet (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) was ordered by the Almighty Allah to refute such customs through personal examples. Arabs considered the month of Shawwal as forbidden for marriage. Aisha's (Radiyah-laah-anhaa) betrothal and departure from her parent's house took place in the month of Shawwal. Another corrupt custom was that the Arabs did not used to give the hands of their daughters to those whom they entitled to be their brothers (though they were not real brothers). Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) showed that a brother in faith was not a real blood brother to be placed in the forbidden category.

Conclusion

In our present-day world, we still have people who marry very young girls. Why should we argue to somebody who married a nine-year-old girl, 1400 years ago, while we still practice it today?^{xxii} Such vilifications against the Prophet Muhammad (Sallal-laahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) by those people are indicative of their incapability to find error with the law and religion that he carried from Allah. Consequently, they try to find ways to malign Islam with regards to the matters that are not interrelated to sharee'ah.^{xxiii}

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- ⁱ Surah al-Ahzaab 33:40
- ⁱⁱ <https://www.sunnah.com/bukhari/91/29>
- ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.facebook.com/notes/we-are-muslims/a-common-question-by-non-muslims-why-did-prophet-marry-ayesha-ra-when-she-was-9-/505089052851212/>
- ^{iv} <http://www.roman-emperors.org/aggiefran.htm>
- ^v <https://www.facebook.com/notes/we-are-muslims/a-common-question-by-non-muslims-why-did-prophet-marry-ayesha-ra-when-she-was-9-/505089052851212/>
- ^{vi} http://islamicresponse.blogspot.com/2008/07/allegations-concerning-muhammads_7038.html
- ^{vii} <https://www.sunnah.com/bukhari/67/93>
- ^{viii} http://d1.islamhouse.com/data/en/ih_books/single/en_Why_did_Prophet_Muhammad_Marry_Aisha_the_Young_Girl.pdf
- ^{ix} <https://www.facebook.com/notes/we-are-muslims/a-common-question-by-non-muslims-why-did-prophet-marry-ayesha-ra-when-she-was-9-/505089052851212/>
- ^x <https://islamqa.info/en/124483>
- ^{xi} <https://yahyasnow.wordpress.com/2009/08/19/accustaion-of-paedophilia-against-the-prophet-mohammad-saw-refuted-by-yahya-snow/>
- ^{xii} <https://www.sunnah.com/muslim/16/81>
- ^{xiii} <https://www.sunnah.com/muslim/3/12>
- ^{xiv} <https://www.facebook.com/notes/we-are-muslims/a-common-question-by-non-muslims-why-did-prophet-marry-ayesha-ra-when-she-was-9-/505089052851212/>
- ^{xv} <https://islamqa.info/en/44990>
- ^{xvi} <https://www.facebook.com/notes/we-are-muslims/a-common-question-by-non-muslims-why-did-prophet-marry-ayesha-ra-when-she-was-9-/505089052851212/>
- ^{xvii} http://islamicresponse.blogspot.com/2008/07/allegations-concerning-muhammads_7038.html
- ^{xviii} Jala-ul-Afham by Ibn Qaiyem and Ibn Sa'ad, Vol.2, p.26
- ^{xix} Sirat-I-Aisha, on the authority of Trimidhi, pg. 163
- ^{xx} <https://www.facebook.com/notes/we-are-muslims/a-common-question-by-non-muslims-why-did-prophet-marry-ayesha-ra-when-she-was-9-/505089052851212/>

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xxi <https://islamqa.info/en/44990>

xxii <https://www.facebook.com/notes/we-are-muslims/a-common-question-by-non-muslims-why-did-prophet-marry-ayesha-ra-when-she-was-9-/505089052851212/>

xxiii <https://islamqa.info/en/44990>